adequate enabling provisions as to safeguarding the interests of weaker sections; devolution of powers etc. has been drafted and will be introduced in Parliament shortly. The proposed amendment recognises that the participation at the various levels of panchayati raj by various categories of representatives is a matter which belongs to the domain of the State Government.

Induction of new Aircraft by I.A.F due to delay in LCA project

*269. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the IAF intends to induct a new strike aircraft because of the delay in the Light Combat Aircraft;

(b) what are the reasons for delay in the LCA Project; and

(c) by when the LCA prototype would be ready and it would come with squadron service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) No, Sir. However, phasing out of old aircraft and planning for the induction of new aircraft is an ongoing process and is related to the operational requirements of the IAF.

(b) The design and development of a technically advanced aircraft like the LCA involves the integration of complex technologies, complex interface management between a number of expert establishments and the absorption of selected state-of-the-art technologies from advanced countries. The time taken for the identification, evaluation, acquisition and absorption of selected technologies and the lack of advanced infrastructural facilities for optimisation and evaluation of the LCA configuration have also contributed to the delay in project execution. The time taken in finalising the strategy for the post Project Definition Phase (PDP) activities in consultation with all concerned establishments, together with the resources crunch, have also contributed the delay.

(c) The roll-out of the first LCA core technology demonstrator platform is expected in 1995. The LCA is likely to enter squadron service early in the next decade.

Appointment of new Vice Chancellor in the Aligarh Muslim University

*270. SHRI T. A. MOHAMMED SAQHY:

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the *Times of India* dated the 13th August, 1990 under the caption "Government urged to appoint new Vice-Chancellor for Aligarh Muslim University"; and

(b) if so, what are the specific reasons for not appointing a Vice Chancellor for Aligarh Muslim University so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI *MEHTA*): *(a) Yes, Sir.*

(b) The post of Vice-Chancellor, Aligarh Muslim University, fell vacant on 4-10-1989. According to Statute 2(1) of the Statutes of Aligarh Muslim University, the Vice-Chancellor of the University is to be appointed by the Visitor from a panel of at least three persons recommended by the Court from a panel of five persons recommended by the Executive Council. It has not been possible to appoint a Vice-Chancellor because the Court has not recommended any panel to the Visitor (President of India) for appointment of the Vice-Chancellor.

Financial outlay of National Wastelands Development Board

*271. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the financial outlay of the National Wastelands Development Board for each year since its inception;